



OPPORTUNITIES FROM CHINA'S ACCESSION TO THE WTO

Alaska

The U.S.-China Bilateral Agreement on China's accession to the WTO opens an important market to Alaska's exports, benefitting key industries and creating export and employment opportunities. The importance of exports to China and the benefits of the Agreement for Alaska and its key industries are outlined below.

State Export Profile

Alaska's sales of merchandise to China totaled \$5.4 million in 1998 of which manufactured goods accounted for almost \$1 million.

China ranked as Alaska's 13th largest export destination in 1998.

Alaska's exports to China are becoming more diversified with exports to China in 13 different product groups in 1998, up from four sectors in 1993.

Alaska's exports to China included those from the Anchorage metropolitan area which totaled \$161 thousand in 1998.

Almost half of Alaska's firms exporting to China in 1997 were small or medium-sized enterprises (fewer than 500 employees).

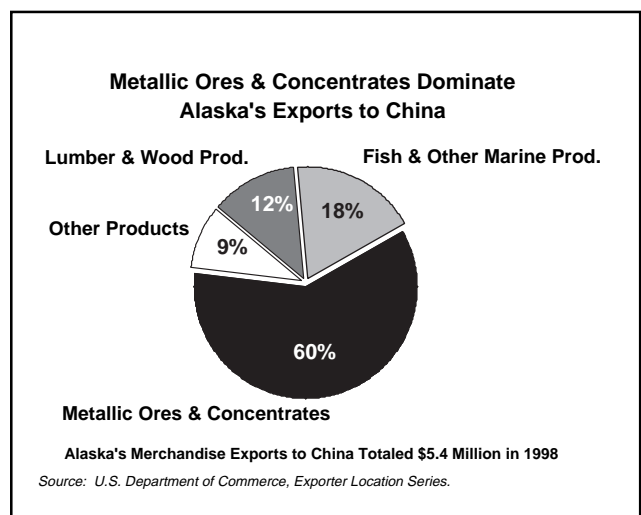
- Tariff elimination for information technology products. Major tariff reductions for wood products and aluminum products.
- Low tariffs for most chemicals at WTO harmonization rates, including petroleum oils.

The agreement will open the market for a wide range of services, including telecommunications, banking, insurance, financial, professional, hotel, restaurant, tourism, motion pictures, video distribution, software entertainment distribution, periodicals distribution, business, computer, environmental, and distribution and related services.

Sector Snapshot

U.S. exports of fish will obtain improved access to the Chinese market based on lower tariffs and elimination of non-tariff measures. China has agreed to eliminate sanitary and phytosanitary barriers that are not based on sound scientific evidence. In addition, exporters will have the right to trade and distribute fish and fishery products without having to go through a state-trading enterprise or middle-man. There are also significant tariff cuts for salmon and other fish.

As a result of the Agreement, Alaska's key export sectors benefit from reduced tariffs in China, strong intellectual property protection and improved trade rules protecting U.S. industries against unfair trade practices and removing burdensome obstacles, including:



Key Industry Benefits

Oil and Fuel

China will reduce its tariffs on oil and fuel to an average 6.1 percent by January 1, 2002. For priority oil and fuel products, China will reduce its tariffs by almost 50 percent to an average of 4.9 percent by 2002. Quotas and licenses on oil and fuel will be phased out by 2004 with an initial quota level of 16.58 million metric tons. Quota levels will grow 15 percent annually until eliminated. Trading and distribution rights for oil and fuel will be permitted five years from accession. China will not apply or enforce export performance or local content requirements as a condition for importation or investment approval. China has agreed to apply tariffs uniformly and all taxes equally to domestic and foreign oil and fuel businesses. This will alleviate the uncertainty associated with China's inconsistent application, refund, and waivers of its 17 percent value added tax.

Fish and Fishery Products

Although China is a leading producer of fishery products, increased consumption has led to rising imports. China will reduce its tariffs on fish and fish products to an average rate of 11.4 percent by January 1, 2005. Tariffs on frozen pacific salmon, sole, and herring will drop from 20 percent to 10 percent or 12 percent. Existing tariffs of 30 percent on frozen crab will fall to 10 percent. Tariffs on frozen cod will be cut in half—from 20 to 10 percent—and for pollock tariff rates will be cut from 30 percent to 10 percent. If WTO members agree to and adopt the fish and fish products sectoral initiative that originated in APEC, China has committed to join this initiative and reduce its tariffs to 0–5 percent for these products. There will also be no import quotas for fish and fishery products upon accession. Trading and distribution rights for fish will be phased in over a three-year period. China has committed to a strong product-specific safeguard that allows the U.S. to restrain increasing fish imports from China that cause or threaten to cause market disruption for up to 12 years after its WTO accession. In addition, the antidumping agreement explicitly permits the U.S. to continue to use its non-market economy methodology for 15 years after accession.

Wood Products

Spurred by the elimination of certain tariffs on logs and lumber in the 1990s, China has emerged as the world's third largest wood importer. U.S. value-added wood exports to China are at record levels. China will reduce tariffs on wood and wood products to an average of 4.6 percent by January 1, 2004. Tariffs on plywood will drop from 15 percent to 4 percent. Existing tariffs set at 18 percent on particleboard, oriented strandboard, doors, windows, and flooring will drop to 4 percent, and fiberboard tariffs, currently ranging from 12 to 18 percent, will drop to 4 to 7.5

percent. If WTO members agree to and adopt the forest products sectoral initiative that originated in APEC, China has agreed to join this initiative and eliminate its tariffs on wood and other forest products. For wood products, China has agreed to provide treatment to the United States on par with China's preferential programs for other countries. Trading and distribution rights for wood and wood products will be phased in over three years. China has also agreed to eliminate sanitary and phytosanitary barriers that are not based on sound science. Also, China has committed not to impose import quotas on wood and wood products.

Trade Stories

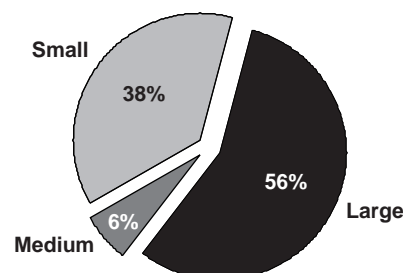
Pacific Cod Corp. is a fish and seafood supplier and processor based in Seattle, Washington, with operations in the state of Alaska. They have a total of 200 employees. Exports to China generate annual sales of \$5 million consisting primarily of raw seafood products which are then processed by Chinese seafood companies. China is a large and increasingly important market for Pacific Cod's products. Because the agreement on China's WTO accession reduces import tariffs on fish and seafood from 35 to 18 percent, Pacific Cod believes that the agreement and the bill on permanent normal trade relations for China will open new opportunities to sell its products in China.

ROLE OF SMEs IN EXPORTS TO CHINA

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are responsible for a growing share of U.S. exports to China.

- In 1997, SMEs generated 35 percent—more than one-third—of all U.S. merchandise exports to China. This figure is up significantly from a 28 percent share in 1992.
- The 35 percent SME share of the China market in 1997 was higher than the SME share of overall U.S. merchandise exports (31 percent) in that year.

Small & Medium-Sized Companies Account for 44 Percent Of All Firms Exporting From Alaska to China



16 companies exported merchandise from Alaska to China in 1997

Definitions: small = fewer than 100 employees; medium = 100–499 employees; large = 500 or more employees. Source: 1997 Exporter Data Base, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Overview of China WTO Accession Benefits to the United States

The Agreement is a one-way deal that will open China's now largely closed market to U.S. exports. By enacting Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR), the United States is merely maintaining the market access policies it already applies to China. If Congress enacts PNTR, the agreement is expected to provide a substantial boost for U.S. exports. If Congress fails to pass PNTR, American companies, workers and farmers will be denied the great bulk of benefits of the agreement the United States already negotiated—including broad new market access for critical services such as telecommunications and distribution, strong import protections, and the right to enforce China's commitments through WTO dispute settlement. Failure to enact PNTR means fewer U.S. exports to China. U.S. competitors in Europe, Asia and elsewhere will gain market share at the expense of U.S. exporters as these countries will enjoy the full benefits of China's market opening WTO commitments.

Deep cuts for tariffs in manufactured products sectors¹ affecting most U.S. exports—averaging an across-the-board 60 percent cut in tariffs for industrial products. Important gains include a 62.5 percent cut in tariffs for pulp, paper and printed material and elimination of tariffs for information technology products including electronics, telecommunications equipment, and computer equipment.

Tariff bindings for every sector. U.S. industries gain greater certainty of access with China's commitment not to raise tariffs on any products above the negotiated ceiling (bound) rates.

Huge reduction in paperwork costs—a boon to smaller exporters. Simplification, harmonization of customs procedures and licensing will slash costs of processing export orders.

Elimination of quotas and non-automatic licenses for all manufactured products by year 2005. Only a handful of quotas will remain after year 2003. While quotas are being phased out, the quota level will be higher than our current export levels and will increase by 15 percent each year until the quota is eliminated.

By joining the WTO, China is committing to establish a tariff-only import regime for **agricultural products**; all non-tariff barriers will be eliminated. Any other measure, such as inspection, testing, and domestic taxes, must be applied in a manner that is consistent with WTO rules requiring a transparent and nondiscriminatory system. All health-related restrictions must be based on sound science.

China also committed to implementing **agriculture tariff-rate quotas (TRQs)** on economic rather than political criteria. These commitments are designed to ensure a transparent and consistent system for allocating shares of the TRQ to end users and provisions to

ensure that quota-holders are not impeded in utilizing their allocations.

China has committed not to use **export subsidies** for agricultural products when it joins the WTO. This commitment is particularly useful for China's potential exports of corn, rice, and cotton, which in the past have displaced U.S. product from third-country markets.

Bilaterally, China agreed to the terms for removal of scientifically unjustified restrictions on importation of U.S. **wheat and other grains, citrus and meat.**

Foreign exchange balancing requirements—which link a company's level of imports to its level of exports—will be eliminated upon accession. This allows U.S. companies to make market-driven decisions about what to import and export instead of decisions driven by the Chinese government.

Local currency banking will be allowed starting with foreign clients upon accession, followed by Chinese enterprises two years after accession and Chinese individuals five years after accession. Foreign currency business will be allowed without geographic restrictions upon accession. China currently limits foreign banks to foreign currency business in selected cities.

Foreign securities firms may currently only trade in a limited number of stocks designated for foreign investors and then only via shared commissions. Upon accession, China will allow foreign firms to trade these shares with no Chinese intermediary. By three years after accession, foreign entities may establish securities joint ventures (JVs) with a minority equity share for foreign investors to underwrite all shares and corporate and government debt, and trade all these securities except those equity shares restricted to Chinese investors. Also upon accession, foreign entities may establish minority JVs to manage assets of all sorts.

Insurance licenses will be granted on a prudential basis, without numerical restrictions or discretionary economic needs tests. China currently only allows selected foreign companies (including four U.S. companies) to operate in China on a limited basis in only two cities.

Majority equity share for foreign non-life insurance entities will be permitted upon China's accession. Wholly owned subsidiaries will be allowed two years after accession. Life insurance joint ventures will be permitted at 50 percent equity share upon accession.

Easier access to and more control of distribution systems in China allowing U.S. companies to operate commission agents' services, franchising services, wholesaling, retailing and direct sales of their own products in three years post accession for almost all products.

Foreign companies will also be permitted greater control and access to other services related to distribution, including maintenance and repair, rental and leasing, advertising, technical testing and freight inspection, packaging, courier, storage and warehousing, and freight forwarding agency services.

The right to trade (import and export) will be permitted for almost all products within three years of accession. Currently, the right to trade is strictly limited; only companies that receive specific authorization or who import goods to be used in production have such rights.

Telecommunications services are currently not permitted to be supplied by foreigners in China. However, with its accession, China has agreed to allow foreign participation for both value-added and basic services. China has also agreed to undertake all the obligations contained in the WTO Reference Paper on pro-competitive regulatory principles. Telecom services which foreigners can supply under the Agreement include e-mail, voice mail, online information and database retrieval, facsimile, paging, cellular, and internet services via any technology including satellites.

Professional service providers will now be permitted to operate in China and receive national treatment for accounting, auditing, bookkeeping, management consulting, legal, tax consulting, architectural, engineering, and computer services.

The elimination of local content requirements will result in better access for U.S. exports and eliminate unfair incentives or requirements to use domestic goods.

U.S. exports and investments will be free from government-imposed conditions such as technology transfer, research and development in China, and offsets. Upon China's accession, such conditions may only be negotiated between the parties to a contract and not imposed or enforced by the government.

U.S. companies can sell their products in China and not be forced to export a certain percentage back to the United States or elsewhere. This eliminates the non-market incentive to use China as an export platform.

State-owned and state-invested enterprises will be required to buy and sell based on commercial considerations, making the purchase process more market-driven and transparent for U.S. companies and will provide new sales opportunities to U.S. firms.

China has agreed to establish **judicial review** procedures for the prompt review of all administrative actions relating to the implementation of laws, regulations, judicial decisions and administrative rulings related to its WTO obligations. The tribunals will be independent of the agencies entrusted with administrative enforcement.

Greatly improved enforcement of China's commitments through the WTO dispute settlement process. The United States will now have allies in other WTO members to address violations of international trade norms.

Current U.S. practice of using a special, non-market economy methodology when calculating dumping margins in **antidumping investigations** involving imports from China will remain in effect for 15 years. Chinese industries will continue to have the burden of proving to the U.S. government that market economy conditions prevail in their industry to avoid application of this methodology.

China will apply its trade-related laws **uniformly** throughout all of China including land and seaports.

China will be required to apply equally the value-added tax (currently at 17 percent for most products) to domestic goods as well as imports under the WTO **national treatment** provisions.

The United States will have access to a **product-specific safeguard mechanism** for 12 years which will allow the U.S. to address more easily any rapidly increasing Chinese imports in a targeted fashion in cases of actual or threatened market disruption to a U.S. industry.

China has agreed to incorporate into the WTO a **textile-specific safeguard** drawn from the U.S.-China Bilateral Textile Agreement.

¹For more information on tariff reductions, see tariff summary table.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

The reports for each of the 50 states are available at www.chinapntr.gov, as well as supplemental information on the benefits of China's membership in the World Trade Organization for U.S. industry and agriculture. Additional information on agricultural products is available from www.fas.usda.gov and speeches and testimony are provided on www.ustr.gov.

For counseling and assistance regarding exporting to China, call the Trade Information Center at 1-800-USA-TRAD(E) or the Agriculture FAS Trade Assistance Office at 202-720-7420.

To discuss problems you are experiencing in exporting to China or a Chinese trade barrier you are encountering that is limiting your ability to export, please contact the Commerce Department's Trade Compliance Center. The fastest means to contact the Trade Compliance Center is the internet at <http://www.mac.doc.gov/tcc>. It can be reached also via e-mail (tcc@ita.doc.gov), fax (202-482-6097), or phone (202-482-1191).

Key Industry Tariff Reductions Resulting from the Agreement

Product Description	Average Base Rate ¹	Average End Rate ²	Percent Change	Product Description	Average Base Rate ¹	Average End Rate ²	Percent Change
Agriculture equipment	11.5	5.7	50.4	Nonferrous metals	9.3	6.6	29.0
Auto parts	23.4	10.0	57.2	Aluminum	14.2	9.4	34.0
Beer	70.0	0	100.0	Oil and fuel	7.4	4.9	33.7
Building materials	16.4	14.1	14.0	Paper and printing machinery	14.3	10.8	24.5
Glass fibers	16.0	7.0	56.2	Photographic equipment	19.4	14.7	24.2
Chemicals	11.1	6.9	37.8	Power generation equipment including batteries	13.4	8.5	36.6
Cosmetics	29.3	11.9	59.3	Precious metals	13.8	11.0	20.0
Fertilizers	5.0	4.0	20.0	Prefabricated buildings	22.0	10.0	54.5
Pharmaceuticals	9.6	4.2	56.2	Pulp, paper and printed material	14.4	5.4	62.5
Soda ash	9.0	5.5	38.8	Railway equipment	5.7	4.4	22.8
Civil aircraft	14.7	8.1	44.9	Recorded media	10.0	6.8	32.0
Compressors and pumps	15.5	9.0	41.9	Rubber products	14.5	11.4	21.4
Construction equipment	13.6	6.3	53.7	Rubber- and plastic-working machinery	15.7	7.7	50.9
Distilled spirits	60.8	34.2	44.0	Scientific and measuring equipment	12.1	6.1	49.6
Engines	12.4	7.9	36.2	Small household appliances	31.2	24.7	20.8
Environmental technologies equipment	13.4	6.9	48.5	Special purpose vehicles	17.4	12.4	28.7
Fish	20.5	11.4	44.3	Specialized machinery	14.0	8.4	40.0
Food processing machinery	13.5	9.8	27.4	Steel	10.3	6.1	40.7
Footwear	25.0	20.8	16.8	Telecommunications equipment not covered under ITA ⁴	24.0	17.2	28.3
Footwear machinery	11.5	8.4	26.9	Optical fibers	13.5	2.5	81.4
Furniture	22.0	0	100.0	Textiles and apparel	27.1	11.7	56.8
Heavy machinery	14.5	7.8	46.2	Synthetic yarn	18.1	5.0	72.3
Husbandry machinery	10.3	7.3	29.1	Toys	23.0	0	100.0
HVAC ³	24.3	15.2	37.4	Trailers	13.8	10.0	27.5
Information technology covered under ITA ⁴	13.5	0	100.0	Trucks	31.5	18.5	41.2
Laboratory machinery	12.9	10.2	20.9	Vending machines	23.0	13.6	40.8
Leather	18.7	16.2	13.3	Welding machines	14.8	9.8	33.7
Machinery parts	8.1	4.7	41.9	Wood	12.5	4.6	63.2
Medical equipment	9.9	4.4	55.5				
Metalworking machinery	15.1	11.4	24.5				
Molds	10.2	7.3	28.4				
Motorcycles	58.3	41.7	28.5				
Motor vehicles	75.9	23.6	68.9				
Passenger motor vehicles	84.1	25.0	70.0				

¹Average 1997–98 applied duties for each product category. Reductions will be made from the 1997–98 base rate for each tariff line. Most cuts will be made in equal annual increments.

²Average end rate for each product category which will be attained once China phases in all duty reductions agreed bilaterally with the United States. All reductions will be completed by January 1, 2008, with 70 percent of all reductions on industrial goods achieved by 2003 and 98 percent of all industrial duty reductions by 2005. China's agreements with other countries may result in lower rates and shorter staging.

³Includes heaters, ventilators, air conditioners, washers, refrigerators, centrifuges/dryers.

⁴WTO Information Technology Agreement (ITA), implemented in July 1997.

Key Agricultural Tariff Reductions Resulting from the Agreement

Product Description	Base Rate 1997-98 ¹	End Rate ²	Percent Change	Product Description	Base Rate 1997-98 ¹	End Rate ²	Percent Change
Beef	45	12	73.3	Pecans	35	10	71.4
Pork	20	12	40.0	Pistachios	35	10	71.4
Poultry	20	10	50.0	Cheese	50	12	76.0
Oranges	40	12	70.0	Lactose	35	10	71.4
Grapefruit	40	12	70.0	Ice cream	45	19	57.8
Lemons	40	12	70.0	Yogurt	50	10	80.0
Apples	30	10	66.7	Hop cone pellets	30	10	66.7
Cherries	30	10	66.7	Hop extracts	20	10	50.0
Grapes	40	13	67.5	Ginseng	40	10	75.0
Pears	30	10	66.7	Soybean flour	40	15	62.5
Peaches	30	10	66.7	Potatoes: Frozen			
Canned peaches	30	10	66.7	hash browns	25	13	48.0
Raisins	40	10	75.0	Potato flour, meal and flakes	30	15	50.0
Orange/grapefruit juices	35	15	57.1	Potato chips	25	15	40.0
Celery	13	10	23.1	Yellow grease	40	10	75.0
Lettuce	16	10	37.5	Soup	45	15	66.7
Cauliflower	13	10	23.1	Pet food	30	15	50.0
Broccoli	13	10	23.1	Wine	65	20	69.2
Frozen mixed vegetables	13	10	23.1	Protein concentrates	45	10	77.8
Frozen sweet corn	13	10	23.1	Water-based drinks with sugar	65	20	69.2
Tomato paste	25	20	20.0	Other water-based drinks	50	35	30.0
Tomato ketchup	30	15	50.0	Cigarettes	65	25	61.5
Almonds	30	10	66.7	Tobacco	40	10	75.0
Hazelnuts	35	10	71.4				

¹Base rate: 1998 current applied duty from which reductions will be made.

²End rate: End rate that will be attained by January 1, 2004, when China finishes phasing in all agricultural duty reductions agreed bilaterally with the United States. China's agreements with other countries may result in lower rates and shorter staging for some products.

Key Agricultural Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQ)

Product Description	Initial TRQ (million metric tons)	2004 TRQ (million metric tons)	Private Share (percent)	1999 Chinese Imports ³ (metric tons)
Wheat	7.3	9.6	10	448,000
Corn	4.5	7.2	25 growing to 40	70,000
Rice				168,000
Short/medium grain	1.3	2.6	50	
Long grain	1.3	2.6	10	
Cotton	0.743	0.9	67	46,000
Soybean oil ⁴	1.71	3.2	50 growing to 90	804,000

³Import data from China Customs Administration, on a calendar year basis.

⁴TRQ quantity and private share will be phased in by 2005. On January 1, 2006, China will eliminate the TRQ and state trading for soybean oil, with nothing but a 9 percent duty remaining.